

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20

RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 DRC-01 EB-11 AID-20 NIC-01 /153 W

----- 084323

R 131535Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7977

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 0980

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RO, AR, GV, LI

SUBJECT: CEAUSESCU VISITS TO LIBERIA, ARGENTINA
AND GUINEA

1. AS SEEN FROM BUCHAREST, PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S MOST RECENT FOREIGN TRIP (LIBERIA, ARGENTINA AND GUINEA) HAD SEVERAL INTERESTING ASPECTS. THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS ARE INTENDED TO SUPPLEMENT THE INFO ADDRESSEES' REPORTING FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE CAPITALS.

2. DESPITE THE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL DIFFERENCES AMONG THE THREE COUNTRIES VISITED, THE ROMANIANS MANAGED TO MAKE MUCH THE SAME POLITICAL POINTS SUPPORTIVE OF ROMANIA'S INDEPENDENCE FROM SOVIET CONTROL AT EACH STOP AND TO HAVE THEM INCLUDED IN THE VARIOUS TREATIES, JOINT COMMUNIQUE, ETC., WHICH WERE SIGNED. IN ADDITION TO REPEATING HIS LONGSTANDING LITANY ON THE RIGHTS OF STATES (INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, ETC.), CEAUSESCU ALSO ADVOCATED SUCH NOW FAMILIAR POINTS AS STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF THE UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ENHANCING THE IMPORTANCE OF SMALL AND MEDIUM-
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SIZED STATES, THE RIGHT OF EACH STATE TO CONTROL AND DISPOSE

OF ITS NATURAL RESOURCES, EQUAL ACCESS BY ALL COUNTRIES TO ADVANCES IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND FASTER PROGRESS TOWARDS DISARMAMENT. THESE LATTER POINTS SEEM TO HAVE RECEIVED INCREASED ROMANIAN EMPHASIS OF LATE AND NEVER MORE SO THAN DURING THE JUST-CONCLUDED TRIP.

3. VISIT TO LIBERIA APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN UNEXCEPTIONAL, FOLLOWING CLOSELY THE PATTERN ESTABLISHED IN CEAUSESCU VISITS TO SEVERAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN SPRING 1972. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, HOWEVER, IF OR TO WHAT EXTENT THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENTS REACHED IN THE AREAS OF MINING, METALLURGY, LUMBER AND RUBBER PROCESSING WILL BE PUT INTO EFFECT. TEXTS OF THESE AGREEMENTS, MENTIONED IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE, HAVE NOT YET BEEN PUBLISHED HERE.

4. ARGENTINA WAS UNQUESTIONABLY THE HIGHPOINT OF THE CEAUSESCU TRIP, AND THE WARMTH WHICH THE PRESIDENT DEMONSTRATED TOWARD PERON PERSONALLY AND WITH WHICH HE ENDORSED THE JUSTICE PARTY'S POLICIES IS VIRTUALLY UNPRECEDENTED FOR HIM IN A NON-MARXIST SETTING. IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL JOINT COMMUNIQUE, THE TWO SIDES SIGNED A TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION EMBODYING A NUMBER OF CONCEPTS FAVORED BY THE ROMANIANS AND AT LEAST ONE, CONCERNING CONTROL OVER UNDER-SEA RESOURCES, OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THE ARGENTINIANS.

5. ARGENTINA ALSO WAS THE SCENE FOR CONSIDERABLE FURTHER ENHANCEMENT FOR MRS. CEAUSESCU'S POLITICAL STATURE. SHE TOOK PART IN THE OFFICIAL TALKS, A FACT MENTIONED IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE, ANSWERED QUESTIONS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, AND RECEIVED A DECORATION AND HONORARY DOCTORATES. ALTHOUGH ELENA'S ACTIVITIES MAY BE SEEN IN PART AS AN APPROPRIATE COUNTERBALANCE TO THE ROLE OF HER HOSTESS, MRS. PERON, IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT DURING OTHER RECENT PRESIDENT-

IALTRIPS ABROAD THE ROMANIANS HAVE APPEARED TO BE SEEKING INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT DUTIES FOR MRS. CEAUSESCU TO PERFORM.

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6. AS WAS THE CASE WITH LIBERIA, VARIOUS AGREEMENTS WERE REACHED WITH ARGENTINA IN THE ECONOMIC AREA BUT, IN THE

ABSENCE OF FURTHER DETAILS, IT IS DIFFICULT TO EVALUATE THEIR SIGNIFICANCE. OF POSSIBLE INTEREST IN THIS REGARD IS THE \$37 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY OF ROMANIAN OIL DRILLING EQUIPMENT SIGNED BY THE TWO SIDES WHICH NOT

ONLY GIVES A BOOST TO ROMANIAN EXPORTS TO THE WEST BUT
IMPROVES ROMANIA'S CAPABILITY TO IMPORT NEEDED RAW MATERIALS
AND OTHER GOODS FROM WESTERN SUPPLIERS.

7. THE GUINEA STOP APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN NOTEWORTHY FOR
THE WARMTH WITH WHICH CEAUSESCU WAS RECEIVED, THE "COMPLETE
UNDERSTANDING" REACHED IN THE BILATERAL TALKS, AND THE
FACT THAT, AS IN ARGENTINA, A TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND
COOPERATION WAS SIGNED. SEKOU TOURE'S SPEECH AT THE
CONAKRY STADIUM RALLY PAID SPECIAL ATTENTION TO MRS.
CEAUSESCU'S "DECISIVE CONTRIBUTION" TO THE VICTORIES OF
SOCIALISM IN ROMANIA. SEVERAL AGREEMENTS IN THE ECONOMIC
AREA WERE REACHED AS WELL.

8. THE ROLE OF "PRESIDENTIAL COUNSELLOR" NICOLAE DOICARU
IN THE CEAUSESCU PARTY REMAINS SOMETHING OF A MYSTERY.
THIS MIN OF INTERIOR FIGURE FIRST CROPPED UP IN CONNECTION
WITH PRESIDENTIAL TRAVEL AT THE TIME OF CEAUSESCU'S RECENT
MIDDLE EAST TRIP.

9. COMMENT: BY THE SUCCESS OF HIS VISIT TO ARGENTINA
CEAUSESCU HAS MADE UP FOR AWKWARDNESS WITH WHICH HIS
SEPTEMBER 1973 LATIN AMERICAN TOUR ENDED, IN THE WAKE OF
THE CHILEAN COUP. WHILE THE CONCRETE BENEFITS OF THE
CURRENT TRIP ARE NOT YET EVIDENT, THE ROMANIANS APPEAR
TO HAVE HAD NO DIFFICULTY IN GAINING THEIR THREE HOSTS'
AGREEMENT TO THE INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY PRINCIPLES THEY
ESPOUSE. MOREOVER, IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT CEAUSESCU WAS
ABLE TO HAVE THOSE POLICIES SOLEMNIZED IN TREATY FORM IN
ARGENTINA AND GUINEA, SOMETHING THAT ONLY COSTA RICA AMONG
NON-SOCIALIST STATES HAD PREVIOUSLY AGREED TO. BY EMBODY
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BUCHAR00980
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740348/aaaabspd.tel
Line Count: 141
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 06 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <30 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CEAUSESCU VISITS TO LIBERIA, ARGENTINA AND GUINEA
TAGS: PFOR, RO, AR, GV, LI, (CEAUSESCU, NICOLAE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005